



Longs Peak United Methodist Church

# March Connection



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303-776-0399 | LPUMC.ORG

**MARCH 2023**

## Pastor's Pen:

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace- 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4:10*

Happy March and welcome to the season of Lent!

Writing the words, *Happy* and *Lent* in the same sentence feels a bit counterintuitive. To be perfectly honest with you, I have always felt a bit conflicted about the season of Lent. On one hand, I can get behind the notion of a time for spiritual evaluation and reflection. Yet on the other, kicking off Lent with the somber nature of Ash Wednesday just makes the season feel a bit melancholy. This year I have decided to do something a little different, rather than dwelling on giving something up for Lent as a reminder to focus on GOD, I have decided that I would observe the season by looking for reminders of GOD's love each day.

An amazingly beautiful reminder of GOD's love was a surprise from LPUMC's quilting group. For some time, they have been working on a set of banners for the Sanctuary that represented stained glass. I was aware of the banners and had commented on how much I liked the design. Imagine my surprise when I was asked to bless the new banners during worship, and was presented with a matching altar cloth and stole! I am humbled by the thought that each of the many stitches was done out of love. What a gift of love and talents!

I am also grateful and humbled by the multitude of ways that you all serve the church with your own gifts and talents. For some it is knitting prayer shawls to be received by those needing some extra encouragement. Others share their gifts of music by ringing bells, singing, or strumming a string. Some are gifted with numbers and share their gifts by being stewards of LPUMC's financial resources. Some are gifted with running technology, and bring our worship services digitally into your homes. There are so many diverse ways that you serve the church. Just like each color and square of our new sanctuary banners come together as individual pieces, we connect to something beautiful that is much bigger than ourselves. And yet, every piece matters. It just wouldn't be the same if even the smallest colored piece were missing. Thank you for all you do!

### Sunday Worship Schedule

9 a.m. – Contemporary

10:30 a.m. - Traditional





If you are looking for a way to get involved, one of the areas in which we could use some additional help is through our Sunday morning hospitality hour. This is a great way to meet new people within the church. Coming out of the Covid pandemic, we offered "hospitality lite," with just a few volunteers to make this happen each Sunday. It is a great blessing that both our worship services and hospitality hour is growing! Praise GOD! However, with more people enjoying our hospitality time, we could use some additional volunteers to make this time happen. Some weeks there is only one person serving and cleaning up the cookies and coffee. This is a big job for one person! As they say, many hands make light work, perhaps you will prayerfully consider volunteering to help serve. Beloved church, what a great problem to have...having a growing group of people who desire to be together!

I just can't say thank you enough for all of you, who help make LPUMC such a friendly church! I pray that you will each journey well this Lent, in finding new ways to grow closer to GOD.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Jeremiah Harris



United Women in Faith will have our board meeting on March 2nd at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. This meeting is mostly for officers but everyone is invited.

The daytime meeting will be held on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. All ladies are invited and a snack will be provided. Our speakers will be Alex Anderson and Juanita Bergacker. They will be talking about their mission trip to Guatemala and they will have slides to show. It should be very interesting and we hope many ladies will be able to attend. If anyone needs a ride, please contact either Jan Spitler at [janaspitler@gmail.com](mailto:janaspitler@gmail.com) or at 720-204-6583 or Judy Scrimshire at [judyscrim@gmail.com](mailto:judyscrim@gmail.com) or 303-702-9094.

The evening meeting of Esther Circle will be held on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our speakers will be Alex and Juanita again talking about their mission trip to Guatemala. A snack will be provided.

The UWF Conference Spiritual Retreat will be held in May and will be on Zoom. Further details will be available in the May newsletter.

The UWF District "A Day Together" meeting will be held on June 10<sup>th</sup> on Zoom. Watch for details in the June newsletter.

We want to thank everyone who participated in putting the heart pillows together. The residents at Beatrice Hover were very appreciative. Also, we enjoyed having Jessica Bennett from Agape Safe Haven at our Esther Circle meeting. Please go to their website

## A Great Way You Can Help a Hurting Friend!



Do you have a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative going through a difficult time?

A Stephen Minister may be able to offer the support he or she needs. Stephen Ministers are members of our church trained to provide emotional and spiritual care to people who are hurting.

To learn how you can help a friend receive care, talk with a pastor or Stephen Leader.

Contact: Phyllis - 303-906-5055

"As I have loved you, so you must love one another."

— John 13:34b

Our Stephen Ministers are there to care!

if you need more information or if you would like to donate.

Blessings, Jan Spitler

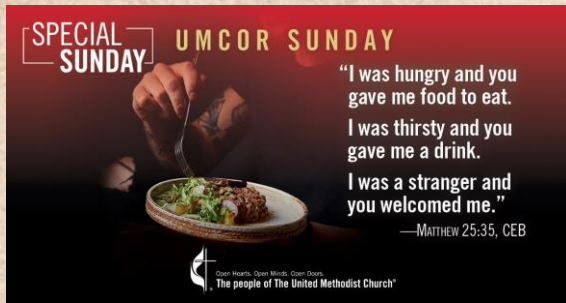
## Worship Attendance:

Date:	In Person:	Online:
Jan. 29	122	96
Feb. 5	160	87
Feb. 12	132	100
Feb. 19	142	70

## Finance Committee:

	Jan. '23
Income:	\$51,776
Expense:	\$42,435





### UMCOR Sunday, March 19<sup>th</sup>:

The [United Methodist Committee on Relief](#) supports disaster relief by working through United Methodist response teams and other partners, UMCOR is committed to alleviating suffering and giving hope. UMCOR gives 100% of any gift to a specific relief effort, not administrative costs. To give online, go to [UMC.org/SSGive](http://UMC.org/SSGive).

The Missions Team will meet Tuesday, March 7, 5:30 p.m. at the church, in God's Harbor. This [Zoom link](#) is available, if you prefer to attend via Zoom. All are welcome. If you would like to learn more about the committee, get more involved with current activities, or bring ideas for Mission opportunities, please join us.

### Mission Collections in March

For the [OUR Center](#)'s Community Market: top needs include feminine hygiene products, cereal and canned meats. Place your donations in the collection barrel near the sanctuary door, or the blue wheelbarrow in Fellowship Hall.

For "HUGS for HOPE" through March: Hats, new Underwear, Gloves, Socks, as well as blankets, backpacks and sleeping bags. Place donations in the "HUGS" bins at the east entrance of Fellowship Hall.

### Empty Bowls, March 11, 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.:

LPUMC is a sponsor for this annual fundraiser for the OUR Center. Each ticket lets you select up to 2 soups from local restaurant donors. You also get to select a painted ceramic bowl to take home. The event will be at Trail Ridge Middle School in east Longmont. Tickets can be purchased at OUR Center, Crackpots, or at [www.ourcenter.org/emptybowls](http://www.ourcenter.org/emptybowls).

### March Missions Meals

On March 11 (Saturday) we will provide lunch at the [OUR Center Community Cafe](#). Volunteers are needed to help prepare the meal (9:30-11:30 a.m.), and to serve the meal & clean-up (11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.). You may come for just one of the 2-hour shifts, or both. If you are reading this online, click the OUR Center Meal button below to sign up, or call Amy Mann-Miner, 303-931-8429. (*Volunteers must be 16 years or older.*)

### [OUR Center Meal](#)

### March 29 (Wednesday) - Meal for HOPE:

Help us provide dinner for 20 participants at [HOPE \(Homeless Outreach Providing Encouragement\)](#). Sign-up to bring a side dish or salad. Drop off your part of the meal between 5:30-5:45 p.m. at Journey Church. If you are reading this online, click the Meal for HOPE button below to sign up or contact Evelyn Fontanez, 303-709-1719.

### [Meal for HOPE](#)





# Bible Studies:

## Mondays:

**7 p.m. (on Zoom)** – Starting a study of *Help Is Here: Finding Fresh Strength and Purpose on the Power of the Holy Spirit* by Max Lucado on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The Zoom link is posted in the Weekly Reminders.

## Sundays:

**9 a.m.** – Studying the Book of **Luke**: Meets in person in God's Harbor and on Zoom.

**6:30 p.m. (on Zoom)** – Studying *Do I Stay a Christian? A guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned* by Brian McLaren. This book provides a serious look at some of our thoughts about what 21st century Christianity really is or pretends to be. He answers this question both in the negative and the positive and provides a road for either answer. Please contact Bruce Armstrong at [brucearmstrong1213@gmail.com](mailto:brucearmstrong1213@gmail.com) for more information. Hardback, paperback, and kindle versions are available online. This is probably one book I will keep in my library to read many times.

## Thursdays:

**10 a.m.** – Ladies book study. Currently studying 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter. Meets in God's Harbor. For more information, contact Linda Orrell or Jan Spitler ([ljorrell@aol.com](mailto:ljorrell@aol.com) or [janaspitler@gmail.com](mailto:janaspitler@gmail.com))

## Saturdays:

**7:30 a.m.** – Men's Group. For more information contact Steve Gaffney at [stvnfgfn@gmail.com](mailto:stvnfgfn@gmail.com) or 303-702-9877.

## Quilt group:

## Wednesdays:

**10 a.m.** – Come and join us! Contact Judy Scrimshire at [judydscrim@gmail.com](mailto:judydscrim@gmail.com) for more information.

# ~Happy Birthday~

March 3	Carolyn Driver
March 4	Kristin Miller
March 5	Joe Pieper
March 7	Jan Baker Ginny Walker
March 9	Leigh-Ann Black Laurie Faye
March 10	Steve Gaffney Becca Marsing
March 11	Jan Steger
March 12	Brenda Henry
March 16	Samuel Walker
March 19	Dennis Champlin Rebekah Fisher Matt Fisher
March 20	Wes Stiller
March 25	Lauren Billow
March 26	Wyatt Eklof
March 27	Emily Billow
March 28	Kathy Cowley
March 29	Dale Sherrod
March 30	Randy Carlson
March 31	Tom Charles



# Staff List:

Rev. Jeremiah Harris - Pastor  
[Pastorjeremiah@lpumc.org](mailto:Pastorjeremiah@lpumc.org)

Parker Steinmetz – Music Director  
[music@lpumc.org](mailto:music@lpumc.org)

Katie Pekarek – Program Director  
[katie@lpumc.org](mailto:katie@lpumc.org)

Alex Anderson – Office Manager/Treasurer  
[alex@lpumc.org](mailto:alex@lpumc.org)  
[finance@lpumc.org](mailto:finance@lpumc.org)

Paula Muncy – Accompanist  
Rev. Sandy Stewart – Deacon-in-Residence

**April Newsletter Deadline: March 20.**  
Please send articles to [alex@lpumc.org](mailto:alex@lpumc.org).